GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:385
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
INTRODUCTION OF 3G TELECOM SERVICES
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Third Generation (3G) telecom services in Telecom Sector;

(b) if so,whether the foreign companies will be allowed in Telecom Sector including 3G telecom services in the country;

(c) if so,the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has offered to existing domestic telecom operators and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for 3G telecom services in the country;and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Yes,Sir.The Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G Telecom Services,on 01.08.2008 and amendments dated 11.09.2008.As per the guidelines any person.

(i) Who holds a UAS/CMTS licence;or

(ii)(a) who has previous experience of running 3G Telecom Services.

(b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 before starting telecom operations,can bid for 3G spectrum and is eligible to participate in the auction process.This makes the foreign companies eligible to participate in the auction process.The licences would be granted through a controlled simultaneous ascending e-auction to the successful bidder.

(d) & (e) One block of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz frequency band has been allotted to MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai Metro Service areas & BSNL in other service areas in the country,BSNL & MTNL will have to pay spectrum charges at a price equal to the highest bid in the respective service area.